

Message Text

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44

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10

PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 SAM-01 AID-20

COME-00 EB-11 FRB-02 TRSE-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12 CIEP-02

LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01 INT-08 IGA-02 FTC-01 DRC-01 /181 W
----- 056033

O R 041108Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY LOME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7265

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY ACCRA

AMEMBASSY COTONOU

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L LOME 0269

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, TO

SUBJ: EYADEMA ANNOUNCES SEIZURE OF REMAINING 49 PERCENT OF
PHOSPHATE COMPANY STOCK

REF: LOME 0261 (NOTAL); (B) STATE A-10523, 28 DEC 73.

1. TRIUMPHAL RETURN OF PRESIDENT EYADEMA TO LOME CULMINATED
PEACEFULLY LATE SATURDAY AFTERNOON (2 FEBRUARY) AT RPT BUILDING
WHERE HE ADDRESSED HUGE BUT ORDERLY AND GOOD-HUMORED OUTDOOR
CROWD OF CHANTING PARTY MILITANTS AND A POPULACE RANGING IN
ATTITUDE FROM ENTHUSIASTIC TO INDIFFERENT OR MERELY CURIOUS.
SPEECH WAS ONCE AGAIN A LONG RECITAL OF ALLEGED MISDEALINGS AND
DISHONESTY ON PART OF TOGO'S CTMB PARTNERS, RANGING FROM CONCEALMENT
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OF FACTS TO ATTEMPTED BRIBERY AND MURDER. HE FINALLY BROUGHT

DOWN HOUSE WITH ANNOUNCEMENT THAT EFFECTIVE MONDAY HE WAS TAKING REMAINING 49 PERCENT OF CTMB STOCK.

2. SPEECH CONTAINED NO MENTION OF COMPENSATION OR ANY OTHER DETAILS CONCERNING SEIZURE OF REMAINING INTERESTS IN COMPANY. CTMB MANAGER SALESSE TELLS ME, HOWEVER, THAT HE MET YESTERDAY WITH MINISTERS OF FINANCE KODJO AND PUBLIC WORKS MIVEDOR WHO INDICATED THAT NEGOTIATIONS ALREADY BEGUN BETWEEN PRIVATE PARTNERS AND GOT IN PARIS AFTER PRESIDENT'S JAN 10 DENUNCIATION OF AGREEMENT WOULD CONTINUE. SALESSE SAYS THAT ONE OF SUGGESTIONS MADE BY PARTNERS IN THESE NEGOTIATIONS WAS THAT GOVERNMENT TAKE REMAINING 49 PERCENT OF SHARES, WITH A TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TYPE ORGANIZATION SET UP TO HELP TOGOLESE RUN BUSINESS. SALESSE ALSO REPORTED THAT MINISTERS HAD ASSURED HIM OF SAFETY OF FOREIGN EMPLOYEES AND DESIRE TO HAVE THEM CONTINUE THEIR WORK. TO PREVENT "INTERFERENCE" FROM OUTSIDE, A GENDARMERIE DETACHMENT IS IN FACT ALREADY IN PLACE AT PLANT.

3. UNDER NORMAL CONDITIONS, I WOULD BE INCLINED TO FOLLOW STANDING INSTRUCTIONS IN PARA 5 OF "GUIDANCE" TRANSMITTED BY REF (B). HOWEVER, BECAUSE OF (A) W.R. GRACE'S RETICENCE THUS FAR TO HAVE ME INTERVENE AND (B) BECAUSE OF UNPLEASANT HISTORY OF LAST FEW DAYS IN WHICH FOREIGN PARTNERS OF CTMB HAVE BEEN ACCUSED BY PRESIDENT OF ATTEMPTING TO KILL HIM. I THINK IT HIGHLY DESIRABLE THAT I HAVE PRECISE GUIDANCE FROM DEPARTMENT. ALL PUBLIC ATTENTION TO DATE HAS BEEN DIRECTED TOWARD FRENCH PARTNERS, WITH NO MENTION OF FACT THAT AMERICANS ALSO OWN CONSIDERABLE PART OF COMPANY. MY INTERVENING NOW EVEN IN MILDEST WAY WOULD REDIRECT SOME OF GOVERNMENT'S ATTENTION TO U.S, ON OTHER HAND, CONTINUED SILENCE, ESPECIALLY AFTER PRESIDENT'S SEIZURE OF FINAL 49 PERCENT, COULD BE INTERPRETED AS INDICATION OF GUILTY FEELINGS. ON BALANCE I THINK IT WOULD BE NORMAL AND REASONABLE THAT I BE INSTRUCTED TO MAKE LOW KEY APPROACH TO KODJO, WHOM I CAN TRUST PERSONALLY NOT TO DISTORT MY INQUIRY, TO SEEK CLARIFICATION OF GOT INTENTIONS, ESPECIALLY WITH RESPECT TO COMPENSATION. I KODJO AND MIVEDOR ARE NOT AVAILABLE (IT OCCURS TO ME THAT THEY MAY GO TO PARIS) THEN I WOULD HAVE TO SEE FOREIGN MINISTER HUNLEDE.

4. FROM WHAT I HAVE OBSERVED THUS FAR, THIS APPARENT ACT OF CONFIDENTIAL

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EXPROPRIATION MEETS TWO OF THREE CONDITIONS LISTED IN SECOND SENTENCE OF PARA 2 OF GUIDANCE (REF B): IT SERVES A "PUBLIC PURPOSE" AND IS NOT "DISCRIMINATORY" AGAINST AMERICANS. IT DOES APPEAR "ARBITRARY." ALTHOUGH I HAVE HEARD SOME CRITICISM FROM TOGOLESE OF PRESIDENT'S EARLIER ACTIONS AGAINST COMPANY, I HAVE NO DOUBT THAT THIS LATEST ACTION WILL ENJOY OVERWHELMING PUBLIC SUPPORT.

5. REQUEST EARLY INSTRUCTIONS.

DICKINSON

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